

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 08889 311314Z

51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00

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R 311018Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3774

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8889

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, TH, JA, LA

SUBJ: JAPANESE IN NORTH THAILAND

FOLLOWING TEL RPTD FOR YOUR INFO:

R 310303Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 2080

C O N F I D E N T I A L CHIANG MAI 227

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, TH, JA, LA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE IN NORTH THAILAND

1. CONSULATE SENIOR LOCAL IN MAY 29 DISCUSSION WITH RTG IMMIGRATION OFFICER IN FANG LEARNED THAT GROUP OF JAPANESE FARMERS ALLEGED TO BE SPIES IN RECENT PRACHATIPATHAI ARTICLES HAVE IN FACT ESTABLISHED AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION IN TAMBON PONG TAM, FANG DISTRICT. IMMIGRATION OFFICER STATED THREE JAPANESE ARRIVED FANG FOUR YEARS AGO WITH TOURIST VISAS TO OPERATE A FARM UNDER AUSPICES OF THE FOUNDATION OF PUBLIC WELFARE SERVICES OF PHRA SRI AYAYA METRII RELIGIOUS CENTER, BANGKOK.

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 08889 311314Z

2. AREA JAPANESE FARM NOT PREVIOUSLY CULTIVATED AND SOIL CONSIDERED INFERTILE. EXPERIMENTATION AND FERTILIZATION HAVE RESULTED IN CASH CROPS OF ONIONS, CABBAGE AND POTATOES. JAPANESE REPORT TO CHIANG MAI IMMIGRATION OFFICE EVERY THIRTY DAYS TO EXTEND VISA. WHEN EXTENSIONS NOT GRANTED, JAPANESE GO TO LAOS TO OBTAIN NEW NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS.

3. LEADER OF GROUP HAS BEEN AT FARM FOUR YEARS AND SPEAKS NORTHERN THAI. OTHER PERSONNEL CHANGE EACH YEAR.

4. IMMIGRATION OFFICER STATED HE WAS VISITED TWO WEEKS AGO BY CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY STUDENT ACTIVIST NAMED PRASOMSUK, WHO ALSO CLAIMED TO BE REPORTER FOR PRACHATIPATHAI. FOLLOWING VISIT, ARTICLES APPEARED IN PRACHATIPATHAI AND CHIANG MAI DAILY THIN THAI.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO INDICATE JAPANESE FARMERS INVOLVED IN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY. PRESENCE OF JAPANESE IN NORTH THAILAND DOES PROVIDE TARGET FOR CURRENT NATIONALISTIC TEMPER.

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